

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/633,330

Examiner

Lars A Olson

Applicant(s)

LEE ET AL.

Art Unit

3617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the after-final amendment received from the applicant on November 9, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-39.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 31 July 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Reasons for Allowance

1. An after-final amendment was received from the applicant on November 9, 2004.
2. Claims 1-39 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. The self-propelled personal watercraft as claimed is not shown or suggested in the prior art because of the use of a watercraft that is comprised of a body with a hull, a deck that substantially covers said hull, a bow portion and a stern portion, and a deck modification module that is removably attachable to said deck, where said deck modification module is configured to be positioned substantially wholly over said deck, and is selectively removable in order to change a performance characteristic of said deck when said deck is submerged in water.
4. The prior art as disclosed by Lewis (US 2,999,253) shows the use of a self-propelled personal watercraft that is comprised of a body with a hull, a deck that is further comprised of two covered ends and the top surfaces of two sidewalls, a cockpit, a bow and a stern portion, and a deck modification module that is removably attachable to said deck, where said deck modification module is configured to be removable in order to convert said watercraft from a kayak form into a canoe form. Said deck modification module is further comprised of a first surface that is configured to at least partially rest against said deck of said watercraft, a second surface with tapered sides, an upturned portion that is configured to interact with a flow of water over said deck, a rigid outer portion that encloses a buoyant material in the form of air, and a channel that

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is configured to accept the insertion of a fastener. However, none of the prior art cited shows or suggests the use of a self-propelled personal watercraft that is comprised of a body with a hull, a deck that substantially covers said hull, a bow portion and a stern portion, and a deck modification module that is removably attachable to said deck, where said deck modification module is configured to be positioned substantially wholly over said deck, and is selectively removable in order to change a performance characteristic of said deck when said deck is submerged in water.

Conclusion

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Exr. Lars Olson whose telephone number is (703) 308-9807.

lo

November 16, 2004

LARS A. OLSON
PATENT EXAMINER

Lars Olson
11/16/04